

CATALOGUE NO. 6321.0

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 20 DECEMBER 1993

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1993

MAIN FEATURES

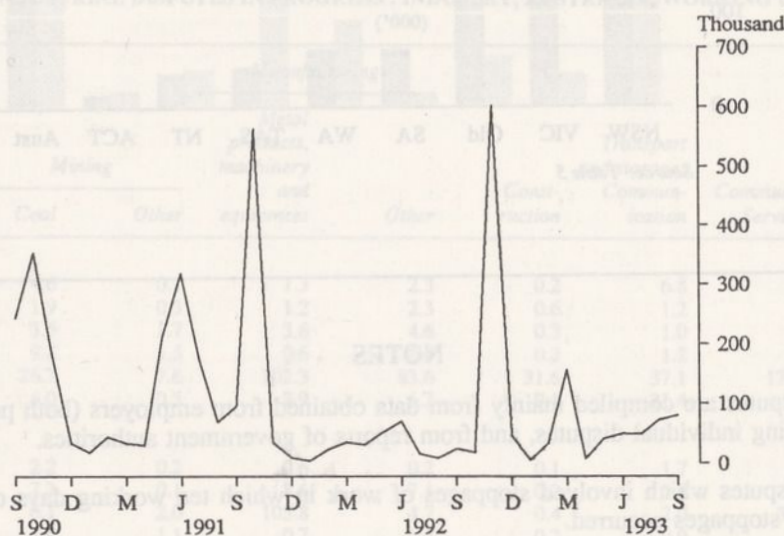
In September 1993—

- There were 47 disputes reported in progress involving 42,600 employees and the loss of 80,600 working days. This represents an increase in working days lost from the previous month (72,400) but a decrease in the number of disputes and employees involved (down from 66 and 59,600 respectively).
- The Coal Mining industry reported 43,100 working days lost, a large increase from the previous

month (1,400). This is the highest level for this industry since November 1988 when 57,500 working days lost were reported.

- New South Wales and Queensland reported high levels of working days lost. Together, they accounted for 88 per cent of working days lost in Australia during the month.

CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



Source: Table 1

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Laura Smith on Canberra (06) 252 6561 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State Office.

In the twelve months ending September 1993—

- There were 631 disputes reported in progress involving 1,065,100 employees and 1,165,800 working days lost.
- The number of disputes is the lowest recorded in a twelve month period since the series was first compiled in December 1981.

In terms of working days lost per thousand employees in the twelve months to September 1993—

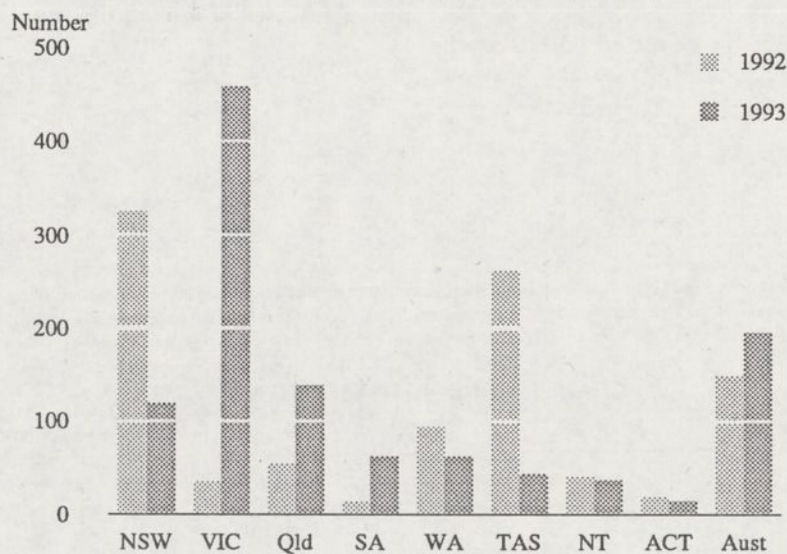
- There were 195 working days lost per thousand employees.

- The Coal mining industry reported 4,414 working days lost per thousand employees, the highest for this industry for a twelve month period since January 1992 (4,425).

For disputes ending in the twelve months to September 1993—

- Disputes lasting up to and including one day accounted for 63 per cent of working days lost (711,800).

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES,
12 MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1992 AND 1993



Source: Table 5

NOTES

Statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and public sector) and trade unions concerning individual disputes, and from reports of government authorities.

The statistics relate to disputes which involved stoppages of work in which ten working days or more were lost at the establishments where the stoppages occurred.

Statistics on working days lost per thousand employees are calculated using estimates of employment from the Survey of Employment and Earnings and the Labour Force Survey.

Explanatory Notes and a Glossary are published on pages 6 to 8 of this publication.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS : AUSTRALIA(a)

Period	Number of disputes(b)		Employees involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(c)	Newly involved(d)	Total(c)	
1992 —					
July	55	65	20.4	21.1	16.8
August	56	64	7.8	9.4	9.3
September	60	69	14.3	17.1	25.6
October	59	70	15.0	15.9	19.3
November	57	63	642.5	645.1	603.2
December	37	45	36.8	37.7	46.7
1993 —					
January	35	38	4.7	5.0	5.7
February	56	58	37.8	38.2	34.2
March	62	68	137.7	152.4	156.5
April	38	46	6.7	8.9	7.6
May	61	67	39.9	60.0	40.9
June	57	64	34.8	60.2	50.0
July	58	66	20.3	41.5	48.6
August r	58	66	55.4	59.6	72.4
September	42	47	32.7	42.6	80.6
Twelve months ended —					
September 1991	1,142	1,164	757.8	938.8	1,573.0
1992 r	751	761	734.3	766.2	881.8
1993	620	631	1,064.2	1,065.1	1,165.8
December 1990	1,189	1,193	725.9	729.9	1,376.5
1991	1,032	1,036	1,178.9	1,181.6	1,610.6
1992	726	728	871.3	871.5	941.2

(a) More detailed information by State and industry is available on request. (b) Prior to September 1991 disputes affecting more than one industry and/or State have been counted as separate disputes in each industry and State and in the Australian total. From that time such disputes, while still counted separately in each industry and/or State, are counted just once at the broader industry and Australian level. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes. (c) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (d) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS : INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST(a) ('000)

Period	Manufacturing								All industries
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Const- ruction	Transport and storage; Communi- cation	Community Services	Other industries(b)	
	Coal	Other		Other					
1992 —									
July	4.6	0.1	1.3	2.3	0.2	6.8	0.2	1.3	16.8
August	1.9	0.3	1.2	2.3	0.6	1.2	0.2	1.6	9.3
September	3.5	1.7	3.6	4.6	0.3	1.0	2.5	8.3	25.6
October	9.8	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.2	1.2	4.2	0.4	19.3
November	26.7	7.6	102.3	83.6	31.6	37.1	173.7	140.5	603.2
December	4.0	0.5	2.9	6.2	0.1	21.4	9.5	2.0	46.7
1993 —									
January	2.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	1.7	0.3	0.4	5.7
February	7.3	0.1	8.6	7.1	0.2	0.8	8.5	1.5	34.2
March	6.1	2.0	103.8	4.7	0.4	2.0	32.6	5.0	156.5
April	1.9	1.1	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.9	0.5	0.8	7.6
May	1.2	0.3	2.3	8.1	—	1.1	13.2	14.8	40.9
June	3.1	2.0	1.5	11.1	0.2	1.7	6.6	23.7	50.0
July	2.0	3.4	3.0	9.6	1.5	0.8	0.5	27.7	48.6
August	1.4	0.1	5.3	13.2	3.5	0.9	41.9	6.1	72.4
September	43.1	—	5.4	14.8	2.5	4.0	3.8	7.0	80.6
Twelve months ended —									
September 1991	146.5	71.6	885.1	115.1	97.0	38.0	128.6	91.1	1,573.0
1992 r	61.6	52.1	117.5	173.0	43.0	94.1	173.1	167.4	881.8
1993	108.8	18.8	236.9	161.5	40.6	73.8	295.4	229.9	1,165.8
December 1990	150.5	86.7	536.3	133.4	62.2	129.9	199.2	78.3	1,376.5
1991	129.6	37.1	664.0	169.3	120.7	98.1	201.1	190.7	1,610.6
1992	76.8	50.8	121.4	154.6	38.4	82.4	238.9	177.7	941.2

(a) More detailed information by State and industry is available on request. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS : STATES AND TERRITORIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST(a)
(^{'000})

Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
1992 —									
July	4.1	0.8	9.7	1.3	0.3	—	0.3	0.3	16.8
August	4.0	2.0	1.6	0.2	1.0	0.5	—	—	9.3
September	7.5	10.6	3.7	0.3	2.7	0.3	0.4	0.1	25.6
October	8.4	2.8	6.3	0.1	1.1	0.1	0.5	—	19.3
November	71.4	502.4	14.5	6.0	8.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	603.2
December	4.3	31.6	3.6	1.3	1.7	4.3	—	—	46.7
1993 —									
January	2.8	0.9	1.5	0.2	0.2	—	—	—	5.7
February	12.2	10.0	9.6	1.9	0.4	0.1	—	—	34.2
March	48.3	88.3	10.0	7.7	2.2	—	—	—	156.5
April	2.0	1.8	1.5	0.4	1.8	—	—	—	7.6
May	5.9	23.4	8.0	1.8	1.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	40.9
June	13.6	12.2	10.8	2.0	10.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	50.0
July	14.3	12.2	13.2	2.7	3.8	0.9	1.3	0.3	48.6
August	r17.6	24.4	24.2	2.4	3.4	0.4	—	—	r72.4
September	38.4	3.3	32.9	3.5	1.4	0.1	—	1.1	80.6
Twelve months ended —									
September 1991	802.7	348.5	133.7	103.7	169.7	7.4	3.4	3.8	1,573.0
1992	r668.8	57.9	r51.7	r7.5	51.0	39.6	2.4	2.7	r881.8
1993	239.3	713.4	136.1	29.9	36.1	6.8	2.1	2.0	1,165.8
December 1990	622.9	391.2	107.9	125.8	108.4	10.7	1.7	7.9	1,376.5
1991	1,106.3	209.2	106.6	59.3	119.1	4.4	3.3	2.3	1,610.6
1992	174.3	586.4	66.3	12.2	53.6	43.0	2.7	2.7	941.2

(a) State by industry information is available on request

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS : INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA
WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED(a)

Period	Manufacturing								
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Const- ruction	Transport and storage; Communi- cation	Community Services	Other industries(b)	All industries
	Coal	Other							
Twelve months ended —									
1989 —									
December	5,505	642	473	283	374	160	176	65	190
1990 —									
December	4,879	1,631	1,293	212	204	299	151	25	217
1991 —									
December	4,507	735	1,820	296	428	237	150	63	265
1992 —									
July	4,191	1,162	371	308	192	251	163	57	169
August	3,157	1,103	360	306	183	252	150	56	159
September	2,315	1,046	340	307	168	241	128	56	148
October	2,174	958	108	121	30	65	42	12	57
November	3,043	1,027	345	264	151	158	169	59	152
December	2,970	997	352	275	151	214	175	60	158
1993 —									
January	3,011	987	353	276	150	218	175	59	158
February	3,128	927	369	280	138	216	181	59	159
March	3,063	765	665	283	135	219	202	58	179
April	3,067	718	663	270	134	209	201	56	175
May	2,829	r641	669	245	132	r209	202	59	174
June	2,904	345	672	239	133	206	184	67	170
July	2,810	417	678	252	138	r191	r183	76	176
August	2,799	417	691	r271	149	r191	r213	r77	186
September	4,414	387	697	289	157	200	214	77	195

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS : STATES AND TERRITORIES, AUSTRALIA,
WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED(a)

Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<i>Twelve months ended —</i>									
1989 —									
December	269	199	102	67	187	64	111	77	190
1990 —									
December	283	226	111	236	200	67	26	62	217
1991 —									
December	528	128	114	112	223	28	51	18	265
1992 —									
July	367	53	69	24	100	255	38	22	169
August	346	47	67	17	95	258	38	19	159
September	326	36	55	15	94	261	42	20	148
October	62	34	59	10	91	259	47	20	57
November	86	350	67	22	101	256	48	20	152
December	85	369	69	25	97	285	48	20	158
1993 —									
January	85	371	70	25	96	284	48	20	158
February	89	371	76	28	90	278	48	20	159
March	107	422	78	41	80	277	37	20	179
April	105	419	76	41	r75	230	29	10	175
May	101	431	77	45	68	107	26	5	174
June	91	438	83	48	r55	41	28	7	170
July	96	446	87	51	r61	46	45	8	176
August	103	462	110	55	r65	45	44	8	186
September	119	458	139	62	62	44	37	15	195

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes

TABLE 6. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ENDING IN THE 12 MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER 1993 : AUSTRALIA,
REPORTED CAUSE, DURATION AND METHOD OF SETTLEMENT (a)

	Number of disputes(b)	Employees involved (directly and indirectly) ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
CAUSE OF DISPUTE			
Wages	49	115.9	130.4
Leave, pensions, compensation	31	5.2	12.4
Managerial policy	355	143.5	219.2
Physical working conditions	83	13.1	20.3
Trade unionism	69	24.0	30.6
Hours of work	4	13.0	3.5
Other(c)	32	724.0	706.1
Total	623	1,038.8	1,122.4
DURATION OF DISPUTE			
Up to and including 1 day	371	805.9	711.8
Over 1 and up to and including 2 days	127	195.0	260.1
Over 2 and less than 5 days	87	32.1	91.6
5 and less than 10 days	28	3.9	24.7
10 and less than 20 days	10 {	1.8	29.7
20 days and over		0.2	4.5
Total	623	1,038.8	1,122.4
METHOD OF SETTLEMENT			
Negotiation	121	54.7	103.5
State legislation	41	5.5	10.1
Federal and joint Federal-State legislation	72	34.8	84.0
Resumption without negotiation	379	940.6	921.6
Other methods	10	3.2	3.2
Total	623	1,038.8	1,122.4

(a) More detailed information by State and industry is available on request. (b) Prior to September 1991 disputes affecting more than one industry and/or State have been counted as separate disputes in each industry and State and in the Australian total. From that time such disputes, while still counted separately in each industry and/or State, are counted just once at the broader industry and Australian level. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes. (c) Includes disputes not elsewhere categorised.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The statistics in this publication relate to disputes which involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day, regardless of the length of stoppage, for example, 3,000 workers on strike for 2 hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they work an 8 hour day).

2. The statistics of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes only (as defined in paragraph 2 of the Glossary). Effects on other establishments, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and public sector), from trade unions and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages eg. State or Australia wide general strikes may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes as defined above.

Change in methodology

4. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in agriculture and in private households, obtained from the Labour Force Survey. Estimates have been recalculated on this basis for each month back to June 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987, the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

5. The basis for the calculation of the number of disputes was changed in the November 1992 publication and the series revised back to September 1991. Prior to September 1991, disputes affecting more than one industry and/or State have been counted as a separate dispute in each industry and State and in the Australian total. From September 1991 onwards, a dispute affecting more than one industry and/or State is counted once in each industry and/or State, but only once at the broader industry and Australia level. The reason for the change was to align the method of counting the number of industrial disputes with the International Labour Office guidelines. This change does not affect the estimates of employees involved or working days lost.

Reliability of estimates

6. Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in information provided by respondents or in processing by the ABS. Although considerable care is taken in questionnaire design; in the instructions given to respondents; and in editing the returns; these inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample.

Other ABS publications

7. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0) — issued annually

Labour Statistics, Australia (6101.0) — issued annually

The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0) — issued monthly

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — issued monthly

Trade Union Statistics, Australia (6323.0) — issued annually

Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1992 (6325.0)

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0) — issued quarterly

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia (6312.0) — issued monthly

Unpublished statistics

8. A range of unpublished data is also available on request including dispute details at more detailed industry levels, cross-classified by States/Territories, and finer cause of dispute and method of settlement categories than those published. Considerable time series exist for most variables. Inquiries regarding data availability and associated charges should be directed to Brenda McMorro on (06) 252 6561.

9. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- r estimates revised since last issue
- nil or rounded to zero

10. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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GLOSSARY

Cause of dispute

The statistics of causes of industrial disputes relate to the reported main cause of the stoppage of work and not necessarily all causes that may have been responsible for the stoppage of work. For these reasons, the statistics do not reflect the relative importance of all causes of disputes as perceived by both employers and employees. The causes are classified from information supplied by employers and according to standards determined by the International Labour Organisation. The classification of causes is as follows:

Wages. Claims involving general principles relating to wages e.g. increase (decrease) in wages; variation in method of payment or combined claims relating to wages, hours or conditions of work in which the claim about wages is deemed to be the most important. Combined claims in which other claims are deemed to be the most important are included under the relevant cause. Disputes over award restructuring are included under managerial policy.

Leave, pensions, compensation. Claims involving general principles relating to holiday and leave provisions; pension and retirement provisions; workers' compensation provisions; insertion of penal clause provisions in awards.

Managerial policy. Disputes concerning the exercise of managerial control by employers e.g. terms and conditions of employment (other than disputes specifically about wages and hours); new awards and agreements; award restructuring; work practices; principles of promotion or deployment of staff including roster complaints and retrenchments; disciplinary matters including alleged victimization of union officials; employment of particular persons; disagreement with managerial decisions.

Physical working conditions. Disputes concerning physical working conditions and safety issues e.g. protective clothing and equipment; first aid services; uncomfortable working conditions; lack of, or the condition of, amenities; claims for assistance; shortage or poor distribution of equipment or material; condition of equipment; new production methods and equipment; arduous physical tasks.

Trade unionism. Disputes concerning employment of non-unionists, inter-union and intra-union disputes; sympathy stoppages in support of employees in another industry; recognition of union activities.

Hours of work. Claims involving general principles relating to hours of work e.g. decrease (increase) in hours; distribution of hours.

Other. Disputes concerning protests directed against persons or situations other than those relating to the employer/employee relationship e.g. political matters; fining and gaoling of persons; lack of work; lack of adequate transport; non-award public holidays; accidents and attendance at funerals. Stoppages for which no reason is given are also included in this category.

Disputes

2. For these statistics, an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees, or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

3. A dispute affecting several establishments is counted as a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation; otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment (in each State or Territory) and in each industry in which it occurred.

4. A dispute affecting more than one industry and/or State is counted once in each industry and State but only once at the broader industry and Australia level. Prior to September 1991 disputes covering more than one industry and/or State were counted differently (refer to paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes for details).

5. When there is a return to work between stoppages over the same issue, and the return to work is for less than two complete months, the stoppages are counted as a single dispute. When the return to work is for two or more months, the dispute is considered to have ended at the time of the return to work. Should a subsequent stoppage occur, it is counted as a new dispute.

6. Information is recorded concerning all industrial disputes where ten or more working days are lost (see paragraph 1 of the Explanatory Notes). Included in these statistics are the following types of industrial disputes:

- unauthorised stopwork meetings;
- unofficial strikes;
- sympathetic strikes (e.g. strikes in support of a group of workers already on strike);
- political or protest strikes;
- general strikes;
- work stoppages initiated by employers (e.g. lockouts); and
- rotating or revolving strikes (i.e. strikes which occur when workers at different locations take turns to stop work).

Excluded from these statistics are work-to-rules, go-slows, bans (e.g. overtime bans) and sit-ins. In addition, industrial disputes in which employees resign are deemed to have been resolved. Statistics on those disputes will cease to be collected from the date of the employees' resignations.

Disputes in progress

7. *Disputes in progress* refers to all disputes occurring within a particular calendar month or year. These disputes may:

- start in the previous month or year and continue into the period being measured, or
- begin and end in the period being measured, or
- begin in the period being measured and continue into the next period.

Duration of dispute

8. The *duration* of a dispute is the average number of working days lost per employee involved in the dispute. The duration of the dispute is calculated by dividing the total number of working days lost in the dispute by the number of employees involved (both directly and indirectly).

Employees

9. *Employees* refers to wage and salary earners only. Excluded are persons who are self-employed (e.g. building sub-contractors, owner-drivers of trucks) and employers.

10. *Employees directly involved* are those who actually participated in the dispute in order to enforce or resist a demand or to express a grievance.

11. *Employees indirectly involved* are those who ceased work at the establishment where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Employees who ceased work at establishments other than those where the stoppages occurred are excluded. See paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes.

12. *Total employees involved* for any period of time are obtained by adding together the number of employees involved in each dispute in the period. For any period of time the figures may include details of the same employees involved in more than one dispute. The longer the period of reference, the more chance there is of some double counting in the number of employees involved. Where there are varying numbers of employees involved during the progress of a dispute, the figures of employees involved relate to the largest number of individual employees involved on any one day. Generally, the *total* number of employees involved for each year will equal the sum of the total number of employees involved in the first month of a year plus the number of employees *newly* involved in subsequent months. Differences between monthly and annual totals can occur due to the temporary cessation of stoppages which resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are not classified as employees *newly* involved in stoppages in the second period in which the dispute occurs.

Method of settlement

13. Statistics of the *method of settlement* of industrial disputes relate to the method directly responsible for ending the stoppage of work as reported and not necessarily to the method (or methods) responsible for settling all matters in dispute. For these reasons, they do not reflect the relative importance of the work of various industrial tribunals

operating under State and Federal legislation. The classification of method of settlement is as follows:

Negotiation. Private negotiation between the parties involved, or their representatives, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Federal industrial legislation.

State legislation. Intervention or assistance of an industrial authority or authorities created by or constituted under State conciliation and arbitration or wages board legislation, or reference to such authorities or compulsory or voluntary conference. Intervention, assistance or advice of State government officials or inspectors.

Federal and joint Federal-State legislation. Compulsory or voluntary conference or by intervention or assistance, of, or reference to, the industrial relation commissions created by or constituted under the Industrial Relations Act, Coal Industry Acts, Stevedoring Industry Act, and other acts such as the Navigation Act; Public Service Arbitration Act. Intervention, assistance or advice of Federal government officials or inspectors.

Resumption without negotiation. This category may include some disputes which are settled subject to subsequent negotiation of a formal nature, such as industrial court hearings. Stop-work meetings are included, and this category may also include disputes settled by 'resumption' as stated, but about which no further information is available.

Other methods. Mediation; filling places of employees on strike or locked out; closing establishments permanently; dismissal or resignation of employees.

Working days lost

14. *Working days lost* refers to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

Working days lost per thousand employees

15. *Working days lost per thousand employees* are calculated for the 12 month period from working days lost and estimates of employees obtained from the ABS Survey of Employment and Earnings and the ABS Labour Force Survey. Refer to paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the way in which these measures are calculated, and the change in the method of calculation from 1987.

